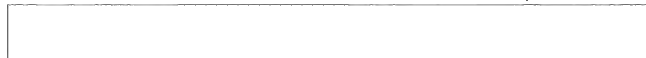




The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20. December 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
20 DECEMBER 1966

1. Cambodia

The Cambodians have again experienced the frustrations of negotiating with the Communists.

In late summer the Cambodians spent a fruitless month trying to get Viet Cong representatives to buy an agreement accepting the present alignment of the Cambodian border with Vietnam.

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A similar round of talks in 1964 was equally unproductive.

2. Japan

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3. Communist China

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4. Congo

Mobutu and Union Minière have begun the countdown to 1 January--Mobutu's deadline for the company to transfer its headquarters to the Congo or lose its concessions.

Mobutu, at a public rally on Sunday, gave a "solemn commitment before the people" to carry out his threat. Congolese soldiers--never a heart-warming sight to Belgians--are beginning to mill around the company's installations in Katanga.

Union Minière, for its part, appears determined to call what it considers a bluff. Company officials, however, are concerned over the safety of their people in the Congo.

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5. South Vietnam

Labor trouble could hit the Saigon docks this week.

Several hundred Vietnamese stevedores are losing their jobs tomorrow when a US Army service battalion takes over some of the cargo handling at the military port. The stevedores had been hired on a temporary basis pending arrival of the US unit, but the situation is being exploited by contending labor leaders. There is talk that other stevedores in the Port of Saigon may go out on a sympathy strike.

An effort is under way to find new jobs for the discharged men. If successful, this could avert serious work stoppages in the vital port.

6. South Vietnam

"The enemy is determined to destroy our base camp in War Zone C this year," stated a recently intercepted Viet Cong message. Since Operation ATTLEBORO ended in late November, there have been several such messages indicating the Communists are jumpy about the prospects of another major strike into their long-time jungle preserve northwest of Saigon. Most of these messages warn subordinate units to watch for new US troop concentrations.

7. Jordan

Husayn's radical Arab neighbors are keeping the pressure on him. The United Arab Command is pushing for implementation of its decision of two weeks ago to station Iraqi and Saudi troops in West Jordan by mid-February.

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8. Panama

Leaders of assorted leftist and Communist groups are banding together to brew up plans for "commemorating" the bloody "flag riots" of 9 January 1964. They also intend to denounce the canal treaty negotiations.

Although past attempts at combined action by these groups have fizzled, given the present atmosphere an emotional memorial program might materialize. Any attendant incidents could set off a new explosion, since the basic grievances that spawned the 1964 riot still exist.

9. Greece

Prime Minister Stephanopoulos apparently intends to resign following today's defection of his major support in parliament. The King may yet be able to bring the errant deputies into line, but another prolonged Greek political stalemate is more likely.

10. France

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11. France

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